

in their more slender proportions, equally manifest in the slight bill, the delicate tarsus, and the feeble foot. Should this Gull be allowed as a good species, it is proposed to call it after Mr. Buller, whose name is already connected with the ornithology of New Zealand. Two specimens in the Canterbury Museum were obtained near the mouth of the Waimakeriri river in this province.

Plumage white; wings silver-grey: primaries, first black, with white shaft, first and second having an oar-shaped dash of white on the inner web, this mark slightly encroaching on the outer web; third feather, basal portion chiefly white; fourth feather, inner web silver grey, margined with black; all primaries except the first, tipped with a white spot: bill yellowish, slightly stained on each mandible, near the point, with horn-colour; tarsi and feet yellowish, claws black. Bill from gape 1 inch 9 lines, depth of bill at base $3\frac{1}{2}$ lines, width of bill 3 lines; wing, from flexure, 11 inches 3 lines; tarsus 1 inch 7 lines; middle toe, with claw, 1 inch 5 lines; total length 14 inches 6 lines.

Ohinatahi,

Canterbury, July 21, 1871.

VI.—*A Revision of the Species of the Fringilline Genus Sycalis.*

By P. L. SCLATER, M.A., Ph. D., F.R.S.

(Plates II. & III.)

IN 'The Ibis' for January last, I attempted to give some account of the present state of our knowledge of the species of the Fringilline genus *Spermophila*. I now propose to offer to the readers of this Journal some similar remarks on the members of the genus *Sycalis*, another characteristic type of the Neotropical Fringillidæ, of which I have of late years accumulated a considerable series of specimens. My collection of this genus consists of 40 skins, referable to 8 species. I have likewise employed for comparison 18 specimens belonging to the collection of Messrs. Salvin and Godman, and referable to 6 species, and have examined the specimens in the French National Collection, where several important types are to be found.

The generic name *Sicalis* (emend. *Sycalis* = *συκαλῖς*, Aristoph.) was proposed by Boie (Isis, 1828, p. 324) for four birds, *Fringilla magellanica*, Gm., *Emberiza brasiliensis*, Gm.*, *Fringilla lepida*, Gm., and *F. butyracea*, Gm. Three of these having become types of other genera, Cabanis, in 1845-46 (Tschudi's Fauna Peruana, Aves, p. 215), proposed to restrict the term *Sycalis* to the second species and its allies.

The little genus of Finches thus designated is quite distinct from every other Neotropical form, but comes very close to the African *Crithagra*, and is perhaps, indeed, hardly separable in strictness, though it is convenient to have another name for the South-American group.

The nine species of this genus which I have had an opportunity of examining may be divided into two sections—the first of which are smaller in size, and have the bill proportionately shorter and smaller, while the second contains a group of Andean birds of rather larger dimensions, and having a larger and longer bill.

The subjoined Table may assist in the somewhat difficult task of distinguishing the first nine species of *Sycalis*. The tenth species (*S. citrina*), which I am not autoptically acquainted with, seems to stand alone in having the external rectrices spotted with white.

A. Minores : rostro brevior.

a. Species pileo flavo : maculâ frontem totam amplectente aurantiacâ :

a'. remigum marg. int. aureo-flavis.

major, fronte lætè aurantiacâ..... 1. *flaveola*.

minor, fronte magis flavâ 2. *pelzelni*.

b'. remigum marg. int. albidis 3. *columbiana*.

b. Species pileo striato : mac. front. utrinque flavâ :

major 4. *luteola*.

minor 5. *chrysops*.

B. Majores : rostro elongatiore.

a. remigum marginibus externis flavissimis :

dorso toto flavo 6. *lutea*.

dorso toto fusco 7. *luteocephala*.

b. remigum et rectricum marginibus griseis :

genis flavis : uropygio olivaceo 8. *uropygialis*.

genis canis : uropygio olivaceo 9. *aureiventris*.

* Boie writes *Fringilla brasiliensis*, Gm., which is, no doubt, an oversight, as Gmelin places the bird in *Emberiza* (Syst. Nat. p. 872).

1. *SYCALIS FLAVEOLA*.

Fringilla flaveola, Linn. S. N. i. p. 321.

Bruant du Brésil, Buff. Pl. Enl. 321. fig. 1.

Fringilla flava, Müller, Syst. Nat. Suppl. p. 164.

Emberiza brasiliensis, Gm. S. N. i. p. 872 ; Lafr. et D'Orb. Syn. Av. 1837, p. 73.

Fringilla brasiliensis, Spix, Av. Bras. i. p. 47, pl. 61. fig. 1 ♂, 2 ♀ ; Max. Beitr. iii. p. 614.

Crithagra brasiliensis, Bp. Consp. p. 521 ; Gosse, B. Jamaica, p. 245.

Sycalis brasiliensis, Tsch. Faun. Per. p. 215 ; Cab. in Schomb. Guian. iii. p. 679, et Mus. Hein. p. 146 ; Burm. Syst. Ueb. iii. p. 253 ; Sel. P. Z. S. 1861, p. 74 ; Taylor, Ibis, 1864, p. 83 ; Wyatt, Ibis, 1871, p. 328.

Sycalis aureipectus, Bp. Compt. Rend. xxxvii. p. 917, et Notes Orn. p. 17 ; Selater, P. Z. S. 1855, p. 159 ; Cat. A. B. p. 126 (jr.).

Sycalis flaveola, Pelz. Orn. Bras. p. 231.

Virescenti-flava, interscapulio nigricante striato ; pileo antico aurantiaco : alis caudâque nigricantibus, flavo limbatis : subtùs aureo-flava unicolor : subalaribus et remigum marginibus internis aureo-flavis : rostro corneo, mandibulâ inferiore albicante : pedibus fuscis : long. tota 5·2, alæ 3·0, caudæ 2·2, poll. Angl. et dec. *Femina* fusca, flavo tincta, pileo et dorso nigricante striatis ; alis caudâque nigricantibus flavido limbatis : subtùs cineraceo-alba ; pectore, crisso, tibiis, subalaribus et remigum marginibus internis flavis.

Hab. America merid. a summâ Columbiâ usque ad Brasiliam merid.

Loca certa : Santa Marta (*Wyatt*) ; Bogotá (*Mus. P. L. S.*) ; Venezuela (*Taylor*) ; Brit. Guiana (*Schomb.*) ; S. E. Brazil (*Max. et Burm.*) ; prov. S. Paolo, Ypanema, &c. (*Natt.*) ; Minas Geraes (*Rogers*) ; Eastern Peru (*Tsch.*) ; Bolivia, Santa Cruz de la Sierra (*D'Orb.*).

The well-known "Brazilian Canary," as this bird is often called, appears to have received names from both Linnæus and Gmelin. The appellation given by the latter has been generally adopted, and I am always unwilling to alter established nomen-

clature ; yet, as the *Emberiza brasiliensis* is referred by Von Pelzeln to the next species, I have thought it better to revert to the older Linnean term *flaveola* for the present bird.

This species has a wide range in South America. I cannot distinguish specimens obtained by Mr. Wyatt in the valley of the Magdalena* from skins from Rio and Minas. It also occurs in Bogotá collections ; and I have no doubt it was upon a somewhat brightly coloured but immature bird from the latter locality that *Sycalis aureipectus* of Bonaparte was established. M. Jules Verreaux is of the same opinion on this point ; and the specimen referred to *S. aureipectus* in my American Catalogue is certainly only a young male of *S. flaveola*.

There can be no doubt about the occurrence of this Finch in Jamaica. It is mentioned by Gosse ; and I have skins from Jamaica which agree in every respect with Brazilian specimens. I believe, however, that it is in all probability an imported species ; and this seems to result from what Mr. Gosse has said of it.

2. SYCALIS PELZELNI.

Chuy, Azara, Apunt. i. p. 479.

Passerina flava, Vieill. Enc. Méth. p. 932 (partim).

Sycalis chloropsis, Scl. et Salv. P. Z. S. 1869, pp. 161 et 632.

Sycalis brasiliensis, Pelzeln, Orn. Bras. p. 232.

Crithagra ? brasiliensis, Darwin, Zool. Beagle, ii. p. 88 (?).

Similis *S. flaveolæ*, sed paulo minor, dorso magis distinctè striato et fronte magis fulvâ neque aurantiacâ : long. tota 4·9, alæ 2·8, caudæ 2·0. *Fem.* suprâ fusca, omnino nigro striata, uropygio et rectricum marginibus externis vix virentibus : subtùs alba, pectore et lateribus nigro striolatis : subalaribus et rectricum remigumque marginibus internis flavicantibus.

Hab. Inner Brazil, Paraguay, and La Plata.

Loca exacta. Cuyaba (*Natt.*) ; Paraguay (*Azara*) ; vic. of Buenos Ayres (*Haslehurst*).

This southern representative of *S. flaveola* was at first wrongly referred by myself and Mr. Salvin to *S. chloropsis*. It is con-

* Cf. Wyatt, 'Ibis,' 1871, p. 328.

sidered by Von Pelzeln to be the true *Emberiza brasiliensis* of Gmelin; but this is, to say the least of it, very dubious, and contrary to the opinion of nearly every other writer.

Under these circumstances I was intending to adopt the specific name *flava* for this bird (ex *Passerina flava*, Vieill.), when I observed that this term is applied by Mr. G. R. Gray* to *Sycalis flaveola* (ex *Fringilla flava*, Müller). Thus it would only cause confusion to attempt to use Vieillot's name; and I therefore propose to call the species *Sycalis pelzelni*, after our excellent Honorary Member Herr A. v. Pelzeln, who, according to my belief, misapplied the term *brasiliensis* to it.

It must be observed that while the male of this *Sycalis* much resembles the corresponding sex of *S. flaveola*, the female is very different, having the whole upper surface striated, and no yellow on the breast and crissum below.

3. SYCALIS COLUMBIANA.

Sycalis columbiana, Cab. Mus. Hein. i. p. 147; Scl. Cat. A. B. p. 126; Pelzeln, Orn. Bras. p. 231.

Sycalis brasiliensis, Scl. et Salv. P. Z. S. 1867, p. 573.

Similis *S. flaveolæ*, sed minor, dorso viridescenti-flavo, striis nullis, et remigum marginibus internis albidis flavo tinctis neque aureo-flavis: long. tota 4·3, alæ 2·3, caudæ 1·5.

Hab. Venezuela, Guiana, and Lower Amazonia.

Loca exacta. Puerto Cabello (*Cab.*); Barra do Rio Negro (*Natt.*).

This species is very closely allied to *S. flaveola*, but may, I believe, be distinguished in every stage by the inner margins of the remiges being quite narrow and of a pale yellowish white, instead of bright yellow as in *S. flaveola*. The difference is still more appreciable when the upper surfaces of the primaries in the two species are compared. It is also smaller, and in the adult male shows no striations on the back.

Nattererian skins agree well with the specimens registered as of this species in my American Catalogue. But the locality of "Trinidad" there given may be erroneous, resting only on a dealer's authority.

* Hand-list of B. ii. p. 84.

4. SYCALIS LUTEOLA.

a. *Specimina Chiliana.*

Fringilla arvensis, Kittl. Mém. prés. Ac. St.-Pét. 1831, p. 4.

Sycalis arvensis, Selater, Cat. A. B. p. 126 ; P. Z. S. 1867, p. 323.

Crithagra brevirostris, Phil. et Landb. Cat. Aves Chil. p. 26.

b. *Specimina Argentina.*

Chipiu, Azara, Apunt. i. p. 475.

Crithagra? *brevirostris*, Gould, Zool. Voy. Beagle, iii. p. 88.

Sycalis luteiventris, Burm. La Plata-Reise, ii. p. 489.

Sycalis arvensis, Sel. et Salv. P. Z. S. 1868, p. 140.

c. *Specimina Peruviana.*

Fringilla luteiventris, Meyen, N. Act. Acad. Leopold. xvi. Suppl. p. 87 (1834), pl. 12. fig. 3.

Crithagra luteiventris, Bp. Consp. i. p. 521.

Sycalis luteiventris, Sel. P. Z. S. 1867, p. 342.

Sycalis luteiventris, Sel. et Salv. P. Z. S. 1869, p. 599.

d. *Specimina Brasiliana.*

Crithagra hylarii, Bp. Consp. p. 521 ; Cab. Mus. Hein. p. 147 ; Burm. Syst. Ueb. iii. p. 254.

Sycalis hylarii, Pelz. Orn. Bras. p. 232.

e. *Specimina Guianensia.*

Emberiza luteola, Sparrm. Mus. Carls. t. 93.

Sycalis luteola, Sund. K. Vet. Ak. Handl. ii. No. 3. p. 14.

Sycalis minor, Cab. in Schomb. Guian. iii. p. 679 ; Pelz. Orn. Bras. p. 232.

Sycalis hylarii, Sel. Cat. A. B. p. 126 ; Sel. et Salv. P. Z. S. 1867, p. 573.

Suprà fusca, nigro variegata, uropygio virescente ; alis caudâque nigricantibus fusco limbatis : loris et regione oculari cum corpore subtùs flavis : long. tota 5·0, alæ 3·0, caudæ 2·1. Fem. gutture et pectore toto cum hypochondriis fusciscentibus abdomine medio flavo.

Hab. in Americâ merid. universâ à Columbiâ usque ad Chilian et remp. Argentinam.

1

2



J. G. Kneeland lith

M & N Hanhart imp

1 SYCALIS CHRYSOPS.
2 — LUTEA

I have skins of this *Sycalis* in my collection from Bogotá, Lima (*Nation*); Cuenca, in Ecuador (*Fraser*); Arequipa, Peru (*Whitely*); Santiago (*Landbeck*); Buenos Ayres (*Hudson*); Matto Grosso (*Natterer*), and Mexiana, Lower Amazon (*Wallace*). Upon comparing them together, I am of opinion that it is not possible to differentiate the various local forms satisfactorily, and that it is better to refer them all to one widely diffused species. Guianan specimens are certainly smaller in size and duller in colouring; Chilian skins are rather largest; whilst those from Peru and Columbia are brightest, especially on the lower plumage.

I believe this to be a bird of the campos, or grassy plains, not of the forests. Burmeister met with "*Sycalis hilarii*" in the campos of Inner Brazil, and tells us that "*S. luteiventris*" is one of the commonest birds of La Plata. The species is probably found throughout its range in similar tracts of country.

I may remark that Bonaparte, the original author of the name *hilarii*, characterizes it (very correctly) as "*similis (Crith.) luteiventri*"*, and that Burmeister has already united *Sycalis minor* to *S. hilarii*†.

5. SYCALIS CHRYSOPS. (Plate II. fig. 1.)

Sycalis chrysops, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1861, p. 376; Salvin, Ibis, 1866, p. 194.

Similis *S. luteolæ*, sed minor, facie magis flavâ et colore dorsi fusco rufescentiore.

Hab. Mexico et Guatemala.

I based this species in 1861 on a specimen in a Mexican collection received from M. Parzudaki, which is still in my possession, and is the subject of the accompanying Plate. I was subsequently rather inclined to think there might have been some mistake in the locality, and that the specimen in question might be only a dwarfed Bogotá skin of *S. luteola*. But Mr. Salvin has an example of what is obviously the same bird, though in immature plumage, shot near Dueñas in Guatemala, in September 1862. It is therefore certain that there *does* exist a Central-American species of *Sycalis*, which may be called *S. chrysops* until its identity with *S. luteola* has been demonstrated.

* Consp. i. p. 521.

† Syst. Uebers. ii. p. 254.

6. SYCALIS LUTEA. (Plate II. fig. 2.)

Emberiza lutea, Lafr. et D'Orb. Syn. Av. in Mag. de Zool. 1837, p. 74.

Sycalis chloris, Cab. in Tsch. F. P. Aves, p. 216 (1846).

Sycalis chloris, Sel. et Salv. P. Z. S. 1868, p. 568, et 1869, p. 153.

Crithagra chloropsis, Bp. Consp. p. 521 (1850).

Obscurè flava, subtùs et in uropygio clarior: alis et caudâ fusconigris extùs flavo limbatis: subalaribus pallidè flavis; remigum marginibus internis pallidè fuscis: long. tota 5·5, alæ 3·2, caudæ 2·1. *Fem.* omninò obscurior et fusco præcipuè suprâ induta.

Hab. Andes of Bolivia and Peru.

I first met with this fine species in Mr. Whitely's collections from Western Peru, and determined it, I believe correctly, as *S. chloris* of Cabanis. Subsequently, on examining the marked specimens of *Sycalis* in the Paris Museum, I found that it was identical with *Crithagra chloropsis* of Bonaparte. Still later I discovered that specimens of the same species had been obtained by D'Orbigny in Bolivia, and described by him and Lafresnaye in 1837 as *Emberiza lutea*. This fact was doubtless overlooked by Bonaparte, from the species being altogether omitted in the 'Ornithology' of D'Orbigny's Voyage.

The typical specimen of *Crithagra chloropsis*, Bp., was (according to my notes taken at Paris) collected in Bolivia by Mr. Pentland.

7. SYCALIS LUTEOCEPHALA.

Emberiza luteocephala, Lafr. et D'Orb. Syn. Av. in Mag. de Zool. 1837, p. 74; D'Orb. Voy. Ois. p. 360, pl. 44. fig. 2.

Crithagra luteocephala, Bp. Consp. i. p. 521.

Fusca: capite undique, et abdomine toto medio cum marginibus rectricum et remigum flavissimis.

Hab. Andes of Bolivia.

D'Orbigny found this *Sycalis* common in flocks on the eastern slope of the Cordillera from Cochabamba and Valle Grande to Chuquisaca. I have examined his specimens in the Paris Museum, and likewise skins in Mr. Eyton's collection obtained by Bridges in Bolivia, but have never been able to obtain examples of this species myself.



G. Reulemann. sc.

M. J. Van der Meer. del.

SYCALIS AUREIVENTRIS C. et P.

8. *SYCALIS UROPYGIALIS*.

Emberiza uropygialis, Lafr. et D'Orb. Syn. Av. p. 75 (1837).

Crithagra pentlandi, Bp. Consp. i. p. 521 (1850).

Sycalis chloropis, Burm. J. f. O. viii. p. 257, et La Plata-Reise, ii. p. 489 (?).

Affinis *S. luteocephalæ*, sed uropygio olivaceo, genis canis, remigibus griseo marginatis, et corpore subtus omnino flavo.

Hab. Andes of Bolivia.

This is likewise a discovery of D'Orbigny's, who met with the species on the Andes of Bolivia, and, along with Lafresnaye, described it in the 'Synopsis Avium,' but made no mention of it in his 'Voyage.' The consequence was that it was overlooked by Bonaparte, and redescribed in the 'Conspectus' as *Crithagra pentlandi*, from specimens obtained by Mr. Pentland in Bolivia, and presented to the Paris Museum.

I have examined both D'Orbigny's and Pentland's specimens at Paris.

According to my notes, taken in Paris, the bird obtained by Burmeister in Mendoza and Catamarca, and named by him *Sycalis chloropis*, is referable to this species, though Burmeister's description (if correct) rather points to *S. luteocephala*. I have one of Burmeister's skins in my collection, and Mr. Salvin has another; but they are both in immature plumage, and are not sufficient to decide the question.

9. *SYCALIS AUREIVENTRIS*. (Plate III.)

Sycalis aureiventris, Ph. et Landb. An. Univ. Chil. 1864, p. 342, Wieg. Arch. 1864, i. p. 49, et Cat. Aves Chilenas, p. 24.

Sycalis aureiventris, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1867, p. 323.

Flava, subtus clarior: intercapulio et hypochondriis grisescens: alis fusco-nigris griseo marginatis: rectricibus fusco-nigris ad basin extus flavo angustè limbatis: long. tota 6·0, alæ 3·7, caudæ 2·2. *Fem.* fusca, uropygio flavo tincto; alis caudâque fusco-nigris, griseo marginatis: subtus ochraceo-fusca, medialiter flavo induta.

Hab. Chili, Cordilleras of the province of Santiago.

I have several specimens of this fine species of *Sycalis*, re-

ceived from Mr. Landbeck. It seems quite distinct from the two preceding species—though I should like to compare it with *S. uropygialis*, which I have not yet been able to do.

Messrs. Philippi and Landbeck have given us an excellent account of its nesting and habits.

10. SYCALIS CITRINA.

Emberiza citrina, Natt. MS.

Sycalis citrina, Pelzeln, Orn. Bras. pp. 232 et 333.

Hab. San Paulo (*Natt.*).

This species seems to be quite distinct from any other known *Sycalis*, having a white spot on the inner web of the two outer tail-feathers. I have never been fortunate enough to come across a specimen of it. It is, perhaps, the same as *Fringilla xanthorrhoea* of Bonaparte (J. Ac. Sc. Phil. iv. p. 350 (1825), et Consp. p. 521), though, as v. Pelzeln shows, Bonaparte's description does not quite agree with it. But I know of no other bird to which Bonaparte's description is more applicable.

Appendix specierum dubitatarum.

In Mr. G. R. Gray's most useful 'Hand-list of Birds' (ii. p. 84) twenty species are assigned to *Sycalis*. Of these I have already disposed of eighteen. The remaining two are:—

No. 7238.—*S. plumbea*. *Chlorospiza plumbea*, Ph. and Landb. (Wieg. Arch. 1864, p. 47), which is *Phrygilus unicolor* (see my remarks, P. Z. S. 1867, p. 322); and

No. 7239.—*S. erythronota*. *Chlorospiza erythronota*, Ph. and Landb. *ibid.* 1863, p. 121, which is in all probability also a *Phrygilus*, but is not known to me.

VII.—On *Nyctale kirtlandi*.

By D. G. ELLIOT, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c.

IN the fifth volume of Shaw's 'Naturalist's Miscellany,' an Owl is described and figured as *Strix albifrons*, and its *habitat* stated to be North America, particularly Canada. In 1852, Dr. Hoy published, in the 'Proceedings of the Academy of Na-